Embroidered Patches

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TOOLS:

- Ballpoint pen (1)
- Embroidery hoop (1)
- Sewing machine (1)

PARTS:

- Fabric (1)
- Embroidery needle (1)
  and floss
- Paper (1)
- Conte crayon (1)

SUMMARY

Reproducing digital artwork in embroidery isn't hard if you follow these simple steps. I'll show you how using the fffffatlab text.
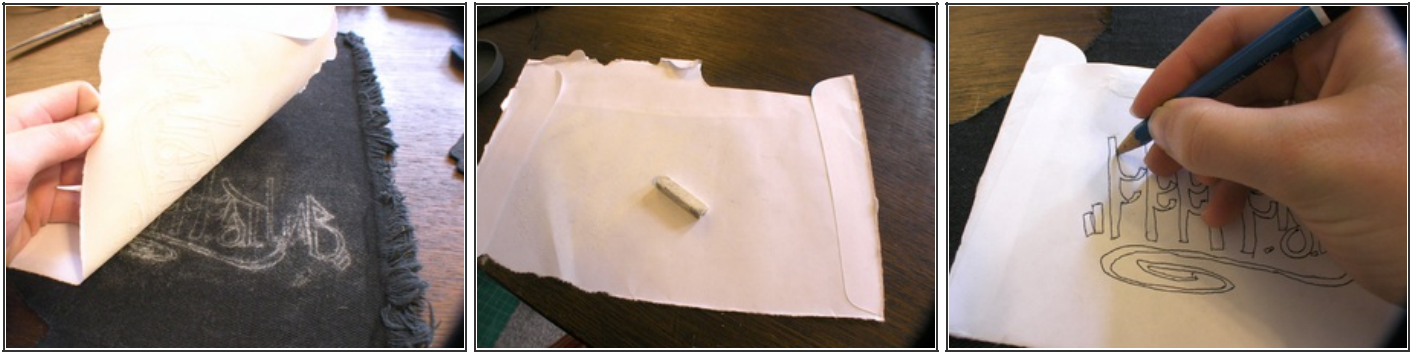
Step 1 — Trace your artwork.

- If you're using a light-colored fabric, you may be able to trace directly on the fabric. In this case, I'm using a very opaque canvas fabric, so I had to first trace the design on paper, directly from my computer screen.

- Don't use a drawing implement that requires too much pressure or that will bleed through onto your monitor. A regular ballpoint pen works just fine.

Step 2 — Chalk it up.

- If you traced your design directly onto your fabric, skip this step.

- Turn your paper template over and apply chalk or conti crayon to the back (in a color that will be visible on your fabric).

- Shake off the dust and place the paper template on your fabric.

- Trace over the design with a dull pencil or ballpoint pen, transferring the lines of the design onto your fabric.

- Be careful not to touch it too much after this, as the chalk will rub off with your touch.
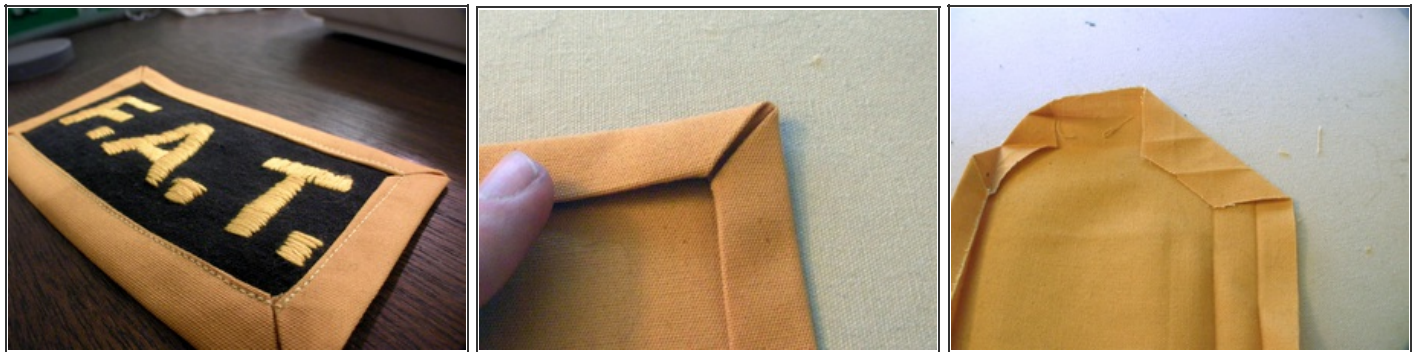
Step 3 — Start embroidering.

- Stretch your fabric in your embroidery hoop.
- Select your floss color and get started.
  - Use whatever stitches you feel are appropriate, and don't be afraid to experiment. I used the satin stitch for these.
- It may be helpful to keep your reference image up on your monitor so you can keep track of small details that might have been lost in the tracing transfer.
- When finished, take your fabric out of the hoop and shake off any remaining chalk.
- Iron out the creases from the hoop.

Step 4 — Create a backing (optional).

- This step is optional, but gives a nice finished look to your patch.

- Cut a rectangle of your backing fabric with about a 3/8" border seam allowance all around your patch.

- Press in a 1/4" fold on all sides. Trim the corners at a 45° angle passing through the intersection of the two ironed creases.

- Iron in another 1/4" fold, turning under the first fold you made.

- Press in the corners so that the edge of the crease intersects the new corner intersecting folds, then press in the sides again.

  - You should end up with nice mitered corners.

- Place the patch inside this frame and topstitch around all edges for a nice complete patch.

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